Opinion

Like postmodern Olympic games and world fairs, now as much to do with urban regeneration and place marketing as with sporting or commercial excellence, so World Heritage inscription is developing beyond conservation and celebration to embrace goals of economic renewal. This issue of the TICCIH Bulletin continues the series of World Heritage reports, presenting the Nord-Pas de Calais Coalfield, which hosted the recent TICCIH Congress, and Almadén and Idrija Heritage of Mercury, both inscribed three years ago, and the Tarnowskie Góry mines in Poland, hoping to join them on UNESCO’s list next year.

‘What do we get out of it?’ Local benefits of the Nord-Pas de Calais Coalfield WHS inscription

Catherine Bertram, Director, Mission Basin Minier Nord-Pas de Calais

The Nord-Pas de Calais Coalfield, which was the host for the 2015 TICCIH Congress in September, was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in June 2012 as a “Continuing evolved cultural landscape”, a category which was created in 1992. Mostly marked by the coal industry, this World Heritage site includes no fewer than 353 components (pits, head frames, spoil heaps, railways, housing…) showing the Outstanding Universal Value of mining landscapes.

‘What do we get out of it?’ is frequently asked by the inhabitants. Three years later, even if the period is too short to assess reliably the effects, this question needs to be tackled. Indeed, the issue of the concrete effects of the inscription is even more vivid in a territory such as the Coalfield, where many of the more than one million inhabitants are seriously affected by social, health, education and unemployment problems.
Conferences and congresses

2016

US
The Past and Future of Historical Archaeology - assessing the centenary of the National Park Service (NPS) and passage of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) 50 years ago. Society for Historical Archaeology January 6-9, Washington, D.C.

Cuba
VIII Latin American Colloquium on the Industrial Heritage, organised with TICCIH 14-16 March. Havana, Cuba. 2nd Call for papers

UK
Celebrating the tinworking landscape of Dartmoor in its European context, Prehistory to 20th Century 6-11 May, Tavistock, Devon.

Croatia
7th International Industrial Heritage Conference PRO TORPEDO, 150th Anniversary of the invention of the “Luppis-Whitehead” torpedo 19-21 May, Rijeka. Call for papers

Canada
What does heritage change? Association of Critical Heritage Studies, with a session on ‘Industrial Heritage: toward comparative perspectives’ 6-10 June, Montreal. Call for papers

Portugal
ICOHTEC Symposium, Technology, innovation, and sustainability: historical and contemporary narratives. 26-30 July, Porto. Call for papers

Opinions expressed in the Bulletin are the authors’, and do not necessarily reflect those of TICCIH. Photographs are the authors’ unless stated otherwise.

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TICCIH is the world organization for industrial archaeology promoting conservation, research, recording and education in all aspects of industrial heritage. It holds a triennial conference and organises interim conferences on particular themes. Individual membership is $30 (USD), corporate membership $65, and student membership. $15

There is an online membership form on www.ticcih.org

The TICCIH Bulletin welcomes news, comment and (shortish) articles from anyone who has something they want to say related to our field. The Bulletin is the only international newsletter dedicated to industrial archaeology and the conservation of the heritage of industrialisation. The TICCIH Bulletin is published online to members four times a year.

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